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Saturday, February 16, 1952

I saw Monnet this morning about the resolution in the French Chamber of Deputies on the European Defense Community. Then I had lunch with Alphand and Prime Minister Faure. Faure is already on a diet, although he is only 43. I noticed that he eats too rapidly. I told him how catastrophic it would be to have the National Assembly reject the EDC, urged him to abandon any idea of resigning if his majority was feeble (said that in a crisis even one vote was a "hell of a majority"), and not to abandon principles of the Community simply to effect a compromise with the Socialists. Jules Moch has become infatuated with the idea of postponing any real consideration of a European Defense force until the United Nations Disarmament Conference in June. Moch is a dangerous element in this situation - he has little judgment, and believes that whatever he is personally engaged in is the most important thing in the world. As the French member of the Disarmament Committee he deludes himself in

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thinking he can influence the Russians; this is the kind of weakness into which his colossal vanity leads him.

I talked to Faure about the financial situation, which is really bad. The franc in the black market is now about 470 to the dollar. Faure must shortly present his budget, and is likely to fall on it. I urged him to attend the Lisbon meeting in his capacity of Finance Minister.

He left to meet again with the Socialist leaders, with whom he had conferred most of the morning. I urged him to stick if possible to the pending resolution, and not to mess things up with the hope of effecting a compromise text couched in unsatisfactory terms.

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I talked to Averell and Bill Draper on the phone, and also went over our $200 million dollar project with Labouisse.

George Perkins called me from London to-night, exercised over an AFP despatch that Acheson had agreed for the United States to guarantee that no EDC state could secede. Callender called me on the same subject, and I told him I was

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certain the statement was false, since even if Acheson were favorably inclined (and I knew nothing to warrant any such assumption) he could not individually commit the U. S. Government on such an important point without authorization or consultation.

Tommy and I took the 9:45 ferry train tonight from the Gare du Nord.

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